



*Embassy of the United States of America
Muscat, Oman*

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

The following is current information on Omani law and practice regarding the disposition of remains.

A. Maximum Period before Internment

For Omani citizens, local customs and law demand that unembalmed remains be buried within 24 hours of death. For expatriates, the remains may be kept at one of the city's three mortuaries until arrangements are made to transport the deceased for burial abroad, bury the deceased locally or arrange for cremation in Sohar/Salalah. Generally, the deceased must be buried within seven days of embalming.

B. Required Documents

In order to process repatriation of human remains, please have the following documents stamped by the Directorate of Medical Services, Royal Oman Police (ROP) before submitting to the consular section. The consular section issues the Consular Report of Death of an American Citizen. In case of repatriation, the Embassy will issue the Consular Mortuary Certificate and prepare twelve sets to accompany the human remains.

1. A no objection letter from the deceased's embassy for autopsy, embalming, repatriation or cremation in Oman. This document will be stamped by the Directorate of Medical Services at the Royal Oman Police (ROP).
2. Death notification issued by the hospital where the deceased died or was taken. This document will be stamped by the Directorate of Medical Services at the Royal Oman Police (ROP).
3. Certificates of absence of any quarantinable or infectious disease at time of death, embalming and sealing certificate and contents of coffin and sealing of container. These certificates are issued and stamped by the Directorate of Medical Services, Royal Oman Police.
4. An original "certificate of death" issued by the Directorate General of Civil Status (DGCS), Royal Oman Police. In Muscat, the DGCS office is located across Muscat International Airport beside the Al Azaibah Police Station. Information to obtain the certificate of death is available at <http://www.civilstatus.gov.om/english/default.asp>.
5. Original and copy of the deceased's passport. The original passport will be cancelled by the Embassy and will accompany the human remains to destination.

C. Undertakers in Oman

Several companies and individuals provide services such as assistance with documentation, coffins, sealing and transportation of human remains to airport or cremation site for a fee. Costs vary depending on requested services. Should you be requiring assistance, please contact the undertakers directly at the listed numbers.

1. **Murtafat Al Awabi Trading, Wadi Kabir:** Contact Amjad Sarwar at 2481-0743 or 9938-5913, or Waseem Sarwar at 9955-7730.
2. **Shwamiah Trading at Ghalah:** Contact Mohamed Asgar or Mohamed Khalil at 2459-0453 or 9931-8439.
3. **Al Harjaf Enterprises, Hamriyah-Itty Road (near Oman Halwa):** Contact Said Al Omairi at 9987-0003, Mohammed at 9238-9799, or Murli at 9517-1358.

D. Storage and Embalming

There are no independent funeral homes in Oman. In the Muscat area, the mortuaries of Khoula Hospital in Mina Al Fahal, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) Hospital in Qurum or the Royal Hospital in Bowsheer ordinarily handle storage and/or embalming.

1. The Khoula Hospital - For information on available space, call Mr. Abdullah Al Khaduri at 9944-2992 (fax 2456-3578) or the Patient Services Duty Officer at 2456-3578. To make an appointment for embalming, please contact Mr. Salim Al Bulushi at 2456-5758 between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. from Saturday to Wednesday. Khoula Hospital does embalming between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. from Saturday to Wednesday and requires:

- a) Death notification certificate issued by the hospital where the individual died. This certificate must be endorsed by the Directorate of Medical Services at the Royal Oman Police Hospital in Qurum, and
- b) A no objection letter from the deceased's embassy.

Upon presentation of the above documents, Khoula Hospital will give you an appointment date for the embalming and a standard form. Please type the request form and give it to the authorities on the day of the embalming, along with the embalming fee of R.O. 100 (approximately USD 260).

Khoula Hospital can assist with contacting the ROP and customs officers for witnessing the sealing of the coffin. Sealing of the coffin requires the presence of ROP personnel, a customs agent and a technician, who will seal the coffin. Please speak to Mr. Abdullah Al Khaduri of the Patient Services Department at 9944-2992 (fax 2456-3578) or the Patient Services Duty Officer at 2456-3578.

2. The ROP Hospital - For information on available space and embalming procedures, please call Dr. Ahmed Al Sabri of the Forensics Department at 2468-3167 or 9932-2270. The ROP Hospital conducts autopsies free of charge. Embalming costs approximately R.O. 120 (approximately US \$ 312).

3. The Royal Hospital does not do embalming. If the deceased is located at the Royal Hospital, you will need permission from the local police station to transport the deceased to Khoula Hospital or Royal Oman Police hospital for embalming and eventual repatriation. To speak to the Director of Patient Services and Public Relations, call Said Al Salti at 2459-9778 (fax 2459-9778).

E. Autopsies

Omani law requires an autopsy if a death is due to a criminal act and may require an autopsy in certain other cases, such as deaths resulting from suspicious traffic accidents. However, if a patient dies in the hospital, Omani authorities normally do not require an autopsy. If an autopsy is not required, the family of the deceased may request it.

If someone dies at home, it is important not to move him or her so the police may properly investigate the circumstances of the death.

If the ROP orders an autopsy and the family of the deceased objects, the family may request a waiver through Dr. Ahmed Sabri of the ROP Hospital's Forensics Department at 2468-3167 or 9932-2270 or from the ROP Hospital's Director General of Medical Services at 2460-3367 or 9936-9000. Dr. Al Sabri is authorized to issue certificates of death in these cases. If the police waive the autopsy requirement, obtain a mortuary release certificate from the ROP Hospital.

F. Cremation

Islamic law does not permit cremation, but local law does. The Hindhu Mahajan Association owns two cremation sites in Oman. One is located in Sohar, approximately 230 kilometers from Muscat. The other is located in Salalah. The crematorium disposes of remains in accordance with Hindu rites. The Hindhu Mahajan Association is willing to extend this service to others of non-Hindu faith upon application by the relevant embassy. Please contact B.D. Pandya at 2478-3257, 2479-2170 or 9920-8021, or Ms. Dhiral Thakkar at 9618-9060 or Mr. Kailash Joshi at 9261-3069. For cremation in Salalah, please contact Mr. Nilesh Derani, General Manager of Khimji Ramdas, Salalah Branch at 9949-1045. The following documents must be submitted to the concerned for cremation:

1. Notification of death stamped by the ROP
2. Copy of the death certificate stamped by the ROP
3. No-objection letter from deceased's embassy
4. No-objection letter from the deceased's next-of-kin notarized by the U.S. Embassy in Oman.
5. No-objection letter from the deceased's local sponsor
6. Copy of deceased's cancelled passport, resident card and one photograph
7. Copy of NOK passport and Omani Resident card
8. Letter from ROP to Sohar Development Authorities requesting cremation assistance.

Please note that the employer or relative is responsible for transportation of the remains to the Sohar cremation site.

In very rare cases of death resulting from a contagious disease, Omani law may require cremation. In such a case, the Khoula Hospital will help make the necessary arrangements. The local sponsor (employer) must pay for (or arrange payment for) transportation and body handlers.

G. Exportation of Remains

If someone dies in a police district outside of Muscat, his or her sponsor must obtain a transportation permit from the local police in that district to move the deceased to the capital area for completion of the rest of the procedures. The sponsor must provide a no objection letter from the embassy of the deceased's country of nationality authorizing shipment of the body to Muscat and must also make arrangements with the capital area police to receive the body.

To obtain approval for repatriation of remains, submit the death certificate to the concerned embassy, get the relevant embassy to provide a letter stating that it has no objection to the body being repatriated, and then present the death certificate and no objection letter to the police station that has jurisdiction over the area where the death occurred. The police station will issue a release letter.

Documents required for exporting the remains are:

1. Death certificate
2. No objection letter from deceased's embassy for repatriating the remains
3. Sultanate of Oman customs and police certificates regarding the contents of the coffin and the sealing of the container.
4. Quarantine port officer's certificate regarding the absence of quarantinable or infectious diseases at the time of death
5. Embalming and sealing certificate.
6. Original passport

Each of the above documents must bear the signatures of the representatives of 1) the director general of customs, 2) the commissioner of police and 3) the medical officer at the Khoula Hospital or the ROP Hospital.

Original and 12 copies of the above documents, along with the deceased's canceled passport and the airway bill of the shipping carrier issued by the airline agent, should accompany the deceased to the airport.

You must make travel arrangements so the deceased's remains may be shipped as soon as possible after embalming. At all times, the employer or family must provide transportation and handlers.

H. Repatriation Costs

Below are approximate airfreight costs associated with repatriation of remains to points in the U.S. Note: One Omani Rial (OMR) equals approximately U.S. Dollars (USD) 2.60. Land transportation is not included. These rates are subject to change. For confirmation, please contact Mr. Rajan or Kamil at Inchcape Shipping Services at 2451-0103/24522285; fax: 2451-0260; email: e.rajan@iss-shipping.com; website: www.iss-shipping.com.

Note: Additional charges (i.e. Oman Aviation special handling, airway bill fee, agency handling and documentation) of RO 95.000 (approximately USD 247.00) apply per shipment.

| Muscat to | Rate/Kg. in R.O. | Rate/Kg. in USD | Estimate based on average weight of coffin (150 kilograms or 330 pounds) |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Atlanta | 5.550 RO | 14.43 USD | 2164.50 USD |
| Chicago | 5.550 RO | 14.43 USD | 2164.50 USD |
| Dallas | 5.900 RO | 15.34 USD | 2301.00 USD |
| Houston | 5.900 RO | 15.34 USD | 2301.00 USD |
| Indianapolis | 5.550 RO | 14.43 USD | 2164.50 USD |
| Los Angeles | 5.830 RO | 15.16 USD | 2274.00 USD |
| New York | 5.345RO | 13.90 USD | 2085.00 USD |
| San Francisco | 5.830 RO | 15.16 USD | 2274.00 USD |
| Seattle | 5.900 RO | 15.34 USD | 2301.00 USD |
| Washington, D.C. | 5.530 RO | 14.38 USD | 2157.00 USD |

I. Exhumation and shipment

Oman does not permit exhumation.

J. Burial

Burial for Muslims may take place in various locations throughout the Sultanate. For non-Muslims, there is only one location, in the capital area at Ras El Hamra, within the Petroleum Development of Oman (PDO) compound. The contact at PDO is Murtadha Al Lawati; you may reach him at 2467-7629 or 9931-7088. If he is unavailable, you may contact Ali Al Harthy or any individual at 2467-2222. PDO donated the grounds and maintains the cemetery, although in theory the Christian Cemetery Committee oversees the burial ground. This committee is voluntary and includes senior representatives of various firms in Oman, a representative of the Ministry of Defense, and chaplains from both the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church in Ruwi. Thus, the ground is considered hallowed for all Christian faiths.

The cost of burial is R.O. 200 (USD 520.00) for an adult, R.O. 75 (USD 194) for a child between one and years old, and R.O. 50 (USD 130.00) for a child under a year old. The price includes all fees for digging the grave, labor, filling in the grave and maintenance. You must make private arrangements for a priest, transport of the deceased, a coffin and a tombstone.

You should submit the following documents to PDO representatives for burial:

1. Complete burial registration form (You may obtain a copy from PDO or the consular section of the U.S. Embassy.)
2. Copy of the death certificate
3. No objection letter from the ROP for burial (This may be indicated on the death certificate, or be a separate letter.)
4. No objection letter from deceased's embassy
5. No objection letter from deceased's next of kin.

The tombstone is extra and you may order it from Sun Technical and Services LLC. Contact Mohamed Arif Surti at 2460-3793 or -9938-2380 for information on types of tombstones and prices.

Salalah: Non-Muslims may be buried at the Christian cemetery. Contact an official at the church compound in Dahariz for further information. The phone number of the parsonage for the English-speaking Protestant pastor is 23235677. A Catholic priest and clergy for several other denominations are also available at the compound.

Currently, there are no fees for a cemetery lot, but it is up to the family (or their representatives) to make arrangements that in the US are normally cared for by the undertaker (hire backhoe/gravediggers, obtain a coffin, transport from the hospital to the cemetery) and to make arrangements for a gravestone (if desired).

The cemetery is located close to the Dahariz roundabout at the intersection of As Sultan Qaboos Street and As Sultan Taymur Street.